

CLAIMS

1. A non-woven mat of inorganic fibre having a substance weight unit area which varies in the cross direction, the edge margins being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat.

2. A method of making a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre having a substance (weight/unit area) which varies in the cross direction, the edge margins being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat, comprising:

passing a forming wire past a slurry of inorganic fibres in a liquid while masking a part of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry, the said part corresponding to an edge margin of the formed mat and the masking varying along the length of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry; and

urging the slurry against the forming wire and causing the said liquid to pass through the forming wire, whereby a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre is formed having an uneven substance (weight/unit area) in the cross direction.

3. A method according to claim 2 in which the masking decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

4. A method according to claim 2 or 3 in which the masking is achieved by passing the face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as it passes the slurry.

5. A method according to claim 4 in which the effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

6. Apparatus for forming a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre

having a substance weight unit area which varies in the cross direction comprising:

a source of a slurry of inorganic fibre in a liquid, a forming wire disposed to move past the source, whereby, in use, the liquid passes to impinge the inorganic fibre on the forming wire;

a mask across the part of the width of the forming wire corresponding to the edge margins of the formed mat to hinder passage of the liquid through the forming wire over the said part, the effectiveness of the mask varying in the direction of movement of the forming wire past the source.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 in which the effectiveness of the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is disposed to move.

8. Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7 in which the mask is a blinding plate impinging the face of the forming wire remote from the source of slurry.

9. Apparatus according to any of claims 6, 7 or 8 in which the effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.

10. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre according to claim 1 embedded immediately below at least one surface.

11. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre embedded immediately below at least one surface wherein the permeability of the mat to cementitious slurry varies across the mat.